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The System.

Some of the newspapers have spoken of JOHN A. McCALL's death as "one of the tragedies of the system."

What system? Why, the system at Albany by which most corporations doing business in the State of New York have been blackmailed by legislators, Republicans as well as Democrats, for

ODELL's connivance with the Ambler the Mercantile Trust Company was part | contributed to the Nineteenth Century of the system.

ODELL, who "O. K.'d" and "N. G.'d" all bills at Albany for so many years, is a prince of the system.

While HAMILTON remains abroad the able words as his have a high value. representatives of the system still on duty at Albany can sleep o' nights.

Duties of a United States Senator.

In the Senate on February 20 the Pure Food bill, which passed that body on the following day, was up for consideration and debate. Section after section was discussed, analyzed, construed, with the painstaking attention to detail, the careful consideration of its probable and possible effects, that mark the work of conscientious lawmakers, but receive slight recognition from part of the public. There was nothing sensational, nothing to interest or attract the attention of the galleries. A number of earnest men, intent on intelligent action, were performing their routine duties. Senator SPOONER of Wisconsin asked for information as to the meaning of the clause, "Goods intended for export shall not be deemed misbranded or adulterated when prepared and packed in accordance with the specifications of the foreign purchaser." After some inquiries and answers, he said:

"Then it really leaves the foreign users of it orders it for their use. I should like to have it article that is shipped shall not be a prohibited article in our own country."

Senator HEYBURN explained that the provision Senator SPOONER questioned had been reported by the committee, that no Senator had offered an amendment to change it, and that in the previous Congresses at which the bill was under consideration no effort had been made to eliminate it. Then Mr. SPOONER gave this casual explanation of his conception of the duties of his office:

"I have heard that observation before. I am not on that committee. I sit here, and when bills come up and are presented to the Senate, I look them over as thoroughly as I can. No Senator can read all the bills upon which this body acts, not even all the important bills. If I see something, as I read a bill, which I think ought to be changed or is liable to misconstruction, I conceive is or have conceived it to be my duty to call the attention of the Senate to it in the expectation that if there be force in the objection I make the committee which prepared the bill and whose duty is is to have become perfectly familiar with the subject would prepare a proper amendment, if I cannot at the moment.

"Last year I performed this same function. which is an ungracious one, as to the Pure Food bill, in connection with the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. PLATT], who is greatly missed from this Chamber. No one whose opinion is worth con sideration could suppose for one moment that either of us could be seeking merely to obstruct good legislation. And I recollect that almost every amendment suggested by the Senator from Connecticut, and nearly every one to which I called the attention of Senators having the bill in charge, were acquiesced in, and the bill was amended accordingly. The bill was very much improved, and the discussion last year, which did not operate to kill the bill, has, I think my friend the Senator from Idaho will admit, enabled the committee to improve very much this bill over the bill of last year."

An "ungracious duty" Mr. SPOONER denominates the necessary function of watching with care the provisions of the measures on which the Senate must act. Its performance usually earns for those who do it the name of "obstructionists," or "tools of the corporations," from superficial observers and those whose vocation it is to prove the faithlessness and treachery to the public of its chosen representatives.

Mr. SPOONER "obstructed" the Pure Food bill perhaps as much as half an hour by insisting on a clear statement of the purposes of the section he called to his colleagues' attention. He will probably be rebuked properly for it. But do his critics hold as high and as reasonable a view of the duties of a member of the United States Senate as those of the Hon. JOHN COIT SPOONER of Wisconsin?

Enlarging Our Buildings.

that another New York hotel is to be 21 by the chambers of commerce, 129 by made twice its present size. This proc- the rural communes and 72 by the soess has become common. Four other houses have recently been subjected to the same change. When a trial of two or three years has shown that a hotel the general class the franchise is enjoyed is going to succeed the process of enlargement inevitably follows.

with such a result. Doubtless there is pay about two dollars annually in taxes. no loss of comfort from this increase in In the class of great landowners the size, and the owners of the hotels in- property qualification is the payment of variably profit by the change; but the a tax ranging in different provinces damage to the architectural beauty of from about twenty to one hundred dolthese buildings, and thus to the appearance of the city, is recognizable in every similar alteration that has been made. by a noble or feudal tenure. It is worth No structure can be so built as to pre- noting that in this class women can vote, serve its original symmetry of propor- and so can corporations acting through tions after it has been made twice as their legal representatives. We add that large as it was intended to be. Even when an absolute majority is required for a building is planned with allowance for election in all the classes, as is the case such variations in the future, it is inferior in the French Republic, though there must have been a real character. And Miss Edith M. Thomas.

remain the same.

In the case of most of the buildings that are thus altered there was no original intention of enlarging them. Only when they have fulfilled successfully the purpose for which they were built are the changes made. These depend on several conditions. They are necessarily governed, in the first place, by the amount of adjacent property available. The original style of architecture has its influence in determining what the new structure shall be.

These and other considerations must be regarded when it comes to enlarging a building. It is only regrettable that they could not be known when it is first put up. Then it could stand as its designers intended it to be. Commercial architecture is one of the artistic glories of the age, and it is unfortunate that it cannot be unhampered. There is no limit to our business enterprise in other cases, and caution shows itself thus disadvantageously only in experimenting with the size of hotels and other large buildings.

American Public Life.

In another column of THE SUN is printed a short extract from an article bill which was to repeal the charter of on the "Moral Upheaval in America," by Admiral Sir CYPRIAN A. G. BRIDGE, ODELL profited by that chapter of the G. C. B. At a time when many agencies are employed, in ignorance or with sinister motive, to destroy public confidence in the men and institutions of

our Government, such sane and reason-

In spite of the clamor raised by uninformed or interested persons, competent and honest students of American public life will agree with the conclusions reached by Admiral BRIDGE. Our Government, in all its departments, is conducted on a high plane by men inspired by high ideals. Its institutions and processes have proved remarkably elastic and adaptable as new conditions required new applications of its powers. It is a Government of which every patriot

has cause to be proud. It is distinctly refreshing to have the monotonous campaign of abuse now directed against the Government varied by the injection therein of a sensible and intelligent man's opinions.

Electoral Reform in Austria

According to a telegram from Vienna, five bills were submitted on Friday to the lower chamber of the Austrian or Cisleithan Reichsrath, embodying a scheme for universal suffrage and for a redistribution of electoral districts. This is the measure to which the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH reluctantly assented, entirely subject to the greed of the merchant who on the ground that it would afford a precedent for similar electoral reforms made clearer, if it can be made clearer, that the in Hungary, the Germans having hitherto possessed the same unfair preponderance in the Reichsrath which the Magyars have had in the lower house of the Diet at Budapest. We are told that the outcome of the proposed changes, which were, of course, denounced by many Germans, but applauded by a majority of the Deputies, will be to give Germans 205 representatives; the Czechs and other Slavs, 230; the Italians 16 and the Rumanians 4. The total number of Deputies, which twice before has been increased since 1868, is now, it will be noticed, to be expanded from 425, the aggregate fixed in 1896, to 455.

> The details of these bills will be awaited with interest, for under them, according to the cabled summary, the Germans will still have more votes than they deserve in the popular branch of the Reichsrath. By the census of 1890, the latest whose figures we have before us, there were but 8,461,000 Germans out of nearly 24,000,000. The Czechs and Poles alone numbered about 9,200,000, and the other Slave-namely, Ruthenians, Slovenians, Croats and Serbs-upward of 4,900,000. Of Italians there were 675,000, of Rumanians 209,000 and of Tyrolese and others 430,000. These figures indimuch more than a third of the Deputies in the lower house, instead of 205 against 250. The larger representation which they have hitherto enjoyed has been due to an intricate electoral system, based on the mediæval system of Estates.

Originally, when the Cisleithan Constitution was promulgated in 1867, the members of the Chamber of Deputies were chosen by the provincial Diets, and therefore corresponded to United States Senators. In 1873, however, the provincial Diets were deprived of all participation in the matter, and the election of Deputies was placed entirely in the hands of the provincial voters. Under the existing system the voters are distributed in five different classesnamely, the great landowners, the cities, the chambers of commerce, the rural communes and a new general class created in 1896. Except in the case of the cities and the chambers of commerce, which are combined in eight of the smaller provinces, the different classes never vote together for the election of a Deputy. In the rural communes, but not elsewhere, the election is indirect, being carried on by means of secondary electors, one of whom is chosen for every five hundred inhabitants. The seats, at present numbering 425, are so partitioned among the five classes that 85 Deputies are elected by There is nothing surprising in the fact | the great landowners, 118 by the cities, called general class.

The conditions of the franchise differ materially in the various classes. In by substantially all men not in domestic service. In the cities and rural villages It is, of course, useless to find fault it is given to all municipal voters who lars a year, and everywhere, except in three provinces, assessed on land held

architecturally to one that is put up to universal suffrage obtains; if this ma- everybody over twelve months is a duljority is not obtained, a second ballot is taken, which is confined to the two candidates highest on the first poll.

As the Slavs will have a majority in the Chamber of Deputies if the proposed electoral reforms are carried out, we shall have heard the last of the attempt to Germanize the Cisleithan kingdom by making the use of the German language compulsory for all of its inhabitants. That attempt was long ago given up in Bohemia and Moravia, where the Czechs are concentrated, and also in Galicia, where the Poles are massed; but only about ten years ago a Government was beaten by the German Deputies because it proposed to teach Slovenian in grammar schools in Styria. The day is probably not distant, when all that is left of the Germanizing process will be the retention of German words of command in the Cisleithan army. The disintegration of the Austrian monarchy into its racial components will unquestionably be accelerated by the new electoral

Expert Opinions of the Mortgage Tax.

Eight months ago the Mortgage Tax law went into effect. What has been the result of its operation? Let the first witness speak. He is R. S. DONALDSON of Buffalo, secretary of the Erie County Savings Bank, and he testifles that:

"Since July 1, 1906, our bank has taken fortyone new mortgages; if business were in its normal condition we ought to have put out that number in one month. The total amount of these mortgages is \$514,000, and four of this number amount in themselves to \$321,500. Since July 1, 1905, our bank has been obliged to add one-half of 1 per cent, increase to the rate of interest on mortgage loans. I think you must admit that up to this time this bill has not produced the revenue expected."

Next comes ex-Judge Warson T. DUNMORE of Utica, who relates this piece of history:

" On July 4, when the law took effect, the Savings Bank of Utica, the Utica Trust and Deposit Company and the Citizens' Trust Company of this city immediately advanced their rates of interest onehalf of 1 per cent. and, if I am correctly informed by those conducting those institutions, there has not been a loan made which prior to July 1, 1905, would not have been made at a rate of interest at least one-half of 1 per cent. lower than the rate

From Rochester JOHN S. BRONK contributes this interesting information:

"Since the Mortgage Tax law went into effect I have personally drawn at least twenty real estate mortgages on which the rate of interest was 51/2 per cent. Had it not been for the Mortgage Tax law the rate of interest on all of these loans would, I am certain, have been 5 per cent. In this county many real estate mortgages are being recorded with the rate of interest 51/2 per cent., but until the Mortgage Tax law went into effect that was seldom the

This is the experience of the Oneida County Savings Bank, as told by JOHN R. EDWARDS, its president:

" Prior to July 1, 1905, we made all loans from \$300 to \$5,000 at 5 per cent., but since have made all loans at 514 per cent., feeling obliged to do so in order that our earnings should be sufficient to continue to pay 314 per cent. to our depositors and have a little surplus for protection, having only accumulated about \$20,000 of surplus in the past ten years on nearly \$7,000,000 deposits, so it cannot be charged that we are piling up a large surplus with the rate of interest charged. The borrower with us is a person owning a farm or building or buying a moderate priced house, and as long as there is any kind of tax on mortgages the borrower will be obliged to pay it in interest, or some other way."

Now for a word from Herkimer, through the lips of W. C. PRESCOTT:

at this place has been 5 per cent, for some time. but I have not drawn any mortgages since July 1. 1905-for a less rate of interest than 51/2 per cent. In nearly every case the borrower has to pay the increased rate of 14 per cent."

Let the borrowers' side be told by Bishop Colton of Buffalo, who says:

" In regard to the matter of the tax on mortgages I consider the tax very burdensome and shall be glad if the law be repealed. Our struggling congregations must needs raise mortgages on their churches to help them establish them, and they have all they can do to meet the interest. With this half per cent, increase the burden heretofore so heavy becomes unbearable. Everywhere I go cate that the Germans ought not to have through the diocese, which covers a sixth part of this State. I find the dissatisfaction of pasters and people with this tax, and the wish and hope are expressed for its repeal."

The Mortgage Tax law has fulfilled every prediction made by its opponents and has failed to sustain any promise of its advocates. Lender and borrower alike demand its repeal. What will the Legislature do about it?

Minot Concerning Old Age.

In a brilliant address not wholly innocent of paradoxes, Dr. CHARLES SEDGWICK MINOT of Harvard told the Academicians of Medicine that old age "begins before birth." This explains, perhaps, the solemn and preterpreadamite gravity of certain babies. But, however comforting it may look to know that one's old age begins before he begins, there is small consolation in these refinements. Not the beginning need concern anybody. It is the end that is feared, the hour of fading strength, the hour when the keepers of the house shall tremble and the strong men shall bow themselves. Old age and death are as natural as life, but they are a part which it takes a great deal of religious philosophy and quotations from the poets to adorn.

As if old age could not come fast enough, various doctors are now trying to show that it begins earlier than it used to. Dr. MINOT asserts that "permanent fatigue" starts at about 40. Everybody knows plenty of persons who were born permanently fatigued: probably their permanent fatigue began before they did. "Permanent fatigue" as a mental characteristic has no neces-

sary connection with old age. Let the fathers and mothers of venerable monthlings and yearlings read and perpend these words of Dr. MINOT'S:

"The percentage of growth is greatest in the first month after birth, and steadily decreases from then. In other words, man ages faster in the first year of his birth than ever after. A child in its first year learns more than it ever acquires in an after year. The things we learn afterward come harder each year, until the time comes when man can acquire no more and his power of originating ceases. His usefulness, while not altogether done,

After all, there is healing in this. The child is older than his father. MERLIN

lard and on the wane. With the progress of the suns will not authority go with wisdom? The yearlings are the quickest, the least degenerate. Theirs be the sceptre and

author v.

Dr. MINOT says that the lower orders of animal life never die save by accident. Curiously enough, among the lower orders of human life, the savage and primitive folk, it is or was believed that nobody died save by the design and witchcraft of an enemy.

The faithful have responded so nobly to the Sultan of Turkey's appeal for funds to push forward the Hedjaz railroad that the work is progressing much more rapidly than was expected. Trains are now running from Damascus down into the northern sandy desert of Arabia, a distance of 350 miles from Damascus and the earthworks are completed as far as Medain Salih, 590 miles from Damascus, and within 200 miles of Medina, where the tomb of the prophet is venerated by many thousands of pilgrims. Beyond Medina the route will follow the old pilgrim road to Mecca and the completed line will be about 1,000 miles in length.

It was along the old pilgrim routes that explorers gained most of our knowledge of Arabia until a comparatively recent day. The ostensible purpose of building this road is to do away with the terrible hardships of the Mecca pilgrimage along at least one of the most thronged of these highways to the holy city, but incidentally the Sultan will doubtless find it a great convenience to be able to place his Government in closer communication with far southern regions in Arabia. Some of his Arabian subjects give him a little trouble now and then and he has long wished that it was easier to admonish them.

AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE. Gratifying Conclusions Reached by British Observer.

Admiral Sir Cyprian A. G. Bridge in the Nine-

teenth Century.

The opinion, once widely held in England and sedulously inculcated by a host of American writers, that in the United States decent people will have nothing to do with politics, If ever it was true, is now as much out of date as would be the opinion that scrofula can be cured by the royal touch. Whether it be the cause or the effect of the war waged against "Bossam," there can be no doubt that the proportion of men of refinement and position entering political life in the United States is as great as it is in any other country. Moreover, it tends to increase. Bosses still exist, and well bred and honorable Americans who, in order that they may do their duty to their country, engage in politics have to tolerate them, for a time at least, in the same way that many English gentlemen of unblemished reputation who amuse themselves on the turf have to submit to contact with the shady characters that the sport of horseracing has

as yet proved itself unable to slough away. The American Senate as a body may have declined of late in public esteem; the visitor is told so often enough. It is, nevertheless, the fact that Senators as individuals deservedly take high rank in the society of the capital, and not only because of their official status. When the Senate is in session a sight of it in no way encourages acquiescence in M. Ostrogorski's desponding estimate. The same may be said of the House of Representatives.
The percentage of well mannered and carefully dressed men in that body strikes the spectator in the gallery as quite as high as it is in the House of Commons. The delibera-tions of each branch of Congress are as ortions of each branch of Congress are as orderly as those of other legislatures, and the House of Representatives does not bear the smallest resemblance to the legislative bear garden depicted by superior persons who write books of travel and insisted upon by not a few Americans. It is doubtful if the bear garden aspect was ever presented. If it was it has disappeared as completely as the knee breeches and silk stockings of Lord North's time.

North's time.

The superior political and administrative officials in the United States are generally and most justly esteemed by their fellow countrymen. It has become an almost commonplace remark that President Rogsevelt naturally endeavors to surround himself with monplace remark that President Roosevelt naturally endeavors to surround himself with men of high character. No tribute to his own could be more honorable. Standing close to his side are men who—with a patriotic indifference to personal interests which it would be difficult to surpase—have resigned opportunities of securing affluence in order to assume arduous, thankless and ill paid posts in the Administration. It is a new feature of colonial polity that men of wealth should go to distant countries with unhealthy, or at any rate uncongenial, climates, and take up not positions of splendor and high social distinction, but posts in which hard work and often squalld surroundings await the occupant. Nothing could prove more conclusively the resolve of their newly acquired dependencies than the high character and self-devotion of many of the men who have undertaken to govern and superintend them. In this country we have seen what class of men the United States send to represent them abroad, and the great personal distinction of these envoys ought to enable us to form a correct idea of those who administer the governments of remote archipelagoes now sheltered by the American fag.

Clothes Philosophy of John Burns. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: In a cable despatch to your paper of to-day I have noted the news that Mr. John Burns, M. P. for Battersea iresses at Whitehall when he has to don court c tume, and disappoints his constituents, who

to see him at 'ome in the knee breeches and silk stockings.

My! my! how the news shocked me. Down in West street, eleven years ago, when John burst rom a Cunard pler upon an admiring populace mixed), he was greeted with an "'Ow are ye, John?" by longshoremen; "and it gave me great pleasure," said he, "to be greeted in the old way."

Later, at the old Colonnade Hotel, Mr. Burns said: I can see that you believe with us in England that frock coats and high hats have had their day, and that the time has come when fustian and corduro should have their innings. [Cheers.] • • I di not think once that in the old country, within the short space of ten years, we could secure the social and political changes that organized labor, by the nost common means, has brought about. What has been accomplished in the past is nothing to the possibilities of the future." "Fustian and corduoy." my masters! NEW YORK, Feb. 25.

Decrease in Birth Rate of Scottish Families. Edinburgh correspondence Toronto Telegraph.
According to the reports to the Registrar Gene of Scotland the average Scottish family newaday: includes only four children, as against four and one-half a generation ago. And what is perhaps even more remarkable is the fact that this loss is observed among the countryman's family, not among the dwellers in the towns. Two generations back the average family was still larger. The decrease in the birth rate is even more re

markable when taken in connection with the sta-tistics upon the subject of marriage. It appears that 298,664 marriages have been registered during the last decade, and of this number 89.276 is in excess of the marriages of the decade previous. From all of this the Registrar General conc that the average number of births per marriage is markedly decreasing that it may be assume that there is a true falling off in the fertility of

Padaung Rubbernecks.

From the Madras Mad.

Among the Padaungs from the Karenni and Shan States the swan neck is esteemed so great a mark of beauty that extraordinary pains are taken to acquire it. As early as possible in the life of the female infant brass rods about a third and are added to periodically so as to keep the neck in a constant state of tension. The longer the neck the greater the beauty, and some of the Padaungs carried from twenty to twenty-five colls.

In the Century Magazine for March begins an iliustrated description of Slolly, by the late William Sharp. Mr. Sylvester Baxter writes of outdoor art, and Mr. C. De Kay describes the new custom house. The Queen of Rumania defends the expulsion of the Jews, Mr. J. B. Blahop gives reminis-cences of John Hay, and Mr. F. T. Hill's blography of Lincoln is continued. There are four short ries, and the serials by Mrs. Humphry Ward d Dr. S. Weir Mitchell are advanced. Among and Dr. S. Weir Mitchell are advanced. Among the contributors of verse are Mrs. Meulten and

THE GREAT SAUSAGE CASE.

In the wake of that stupendous piece of race discrimination entitled the Chinese exclusion act comes a bit of custom house administration which may perhaps be termed a Chinese sausage exclusion act. Possibly the yellow inhabitants of the Flowery Kingdom may look upon this recent incident as a retaliatory measure to their embargo on manufactured and other

products imported from the United States. The firm of Wing Sing Lung & Co., among others, attempted to pass through the port of Boston a consignment of Chinese sausage without the payment of duty, the contention being that they were exempt from duty under paragraph 655 of the tariff act of 1897, under the analogy of bologna sausages.

But the Collector of Customs at the port of Boston knows sausages as well as beans. He accordingly plastered a duty of 25 per cent. ad valorem on the imports, asserting that they fell under the classification of prepared meat under paragraph 275 of the same act of blessed memory.

Wing Sing Lung et al. thereupon appealed to the Board of General Appraisers of this district, and this is what Mr. Waite, G. A., has to say in sustaining the Collector (G. A. standing for General Appraiser and Great Authority):

The commodity involved in this case is sausage imported from Chins, invoiced variously as "sau-sages," "cured sausages," "dried sausages," &c. , It consists, as testified to by a witness produced by the importers, of pork chopped up and mixed with salt, and sauce, and very little spice. An inspection of the commodity shows it to be a sausage in casing of from one-half to three-quarters of an inch in diameter, consisting of chunks of fat and lear meat in rather coarse condition. It was assessed as prepared meat, at 25 per cent. ad valorem, under paragraph 275 of the tariff act of 1897, and is claimed to be exempt from duty as bologua sausage under

The case is presented by the importer on the theory that all chopped meat put up in casings in the form of sausage is subject to duty as bologna sausage. There is no testimony to show that this sausage. There is no testimony to show that this commodity was commercially designated as bologna sausage at the time of the passage of this act, or anything that satisfies us that it is generally known as bologna sausage in the trade. There is a well known commodity called bologna sausage, which has been the subject of consideration by the department and board in a number of decisions, but there are clearly distinctible by from this. but these are clearly distinguishable from this. We do not think that all sausage in casings is bo-logna sausage. Such a construction would put the well known fresh pork sausages in casings on the free list. There is nothing in the record to over-come the presumption attending the finding, of the Collector that this article is prepared meat. We therefore overrule the protests and affirm the

In other words, all is not bologna that

ODELL AND HARRIMAN. Beginning of the Alliance Between Two Famous Men.

From the World's Work for March At the other end of Orange county from Newburgh is Tuxedo, a well known "colony" of rich people. Next the Tuxedo Park settlement is the great country place which Mr. Edward H. Harriman has spent years in improving. Mr. Harriman bought thousands of acres of land, tore down buildings, laid out roads and erected a palatial country residence. But when he came to laying out the roads as he wanted them Mr. Harriman found that the old inhabitants preferred to keep them as they were and that the Board of Highways of the town shared the old in-

While the farmers were willing to sell their farms to Mr. Harriman if he paid a high enough price, those whose farms he did not buy outvoted him at the town elections. Mr Harriman went to the county boss, Mr. Odell. The latter, of course, controlled the county officers, who could do with the county roads as they wished. It turned out to be a simple matter to change the town roads to county roads; and as soon as they became county roads the county officers could close some of them and lay out others as Mr. Harriman

This was a little matter, but it proved to be the beginning of an alliance that touched larger things.

Stage Irishmen.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The article from the Boston Transcript printed in your issue

ncrease in the number of divorces, according to the compilation of the County Clerk's records b Joseph H. Stubbs, Chief of the Indiana Bureau of

The number of marriages decreased from 25,301 in 1904 to 25,797 in 1905. The number of divorces increased from 8,449 in 1904 to 3,840 in 1905. In 1904 there was one divorce for every eight marriages. For the year 1905 there was one divorce for every

seven marriages.

Several curious results are shown by the statistics. In the first place, divorces were granted to seven husbands because their wives falled to provide. In 1904 divorces were granted to twelve husbands on this complaint. Again, in 1905 six divorces were granted to husbands because of criminal convictions of the wives, and only one in

Applause in House and Senate.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Str. In the official report of the proceedings of the House of Repre-sentatives, as published in the Congressional Record, often occur, enclosed in brackets, such expressions as "Applause," "Long continued applause on the cratic side," "Applause on the Republican side." These expressions mean applause by mem-bers of the House, not by occupants of the gallery. Do not the rules of the House forbid such demonatrations, either by members of the House or by occupants of the gallery? In the proceedings of the Senate as given in the Record I do not see any such mentions of applause.

Are the rules of the Senate different from those

of the House as regards manifestations of approval by applause, prolonged applause, &o., on the part of BROCKTON, Mass., Feb. 24.

Corean Official's Perplexity.

From the Korean Daty Nees.

The prefect of Hangsan is in difficulties. A rumor to the effect that there are two kinds of nickels in Scoul (s. s., good and bad) has reached him, and as he shrewdly suspects that most of the taxes have been paid in the not good coin he want o know whether he will be held responsible nas been sub mitted to the tender mercies of Mr. Megata.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It has jus been discovered that after spending some time on the Isthmus of Panama one's teeth tend to turn to glass. This metamorphosis is especially observable among Scotchmen from San Francisco. NEW YORK, Feb. 24. WILLIAM MUNRO.

Greater Than Great. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: What is this

talk about "Greater Hoboken"? How can there be a greater Hoboken? It is inconceivable, imossible, immaterial, not in nature. Hoboken MANHATTAN, Feb., 26.

ARMY RESERVES.

Opinions of a Non-Commissioned Officer

on the Situation. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: THE SUN being the only great dafly showing an intelligent interest in army matters, and the subject being of vital importance, is my excuse for this letter, after reading Capt. Dickman's interesting communication in your issue of February 22. My views may be of interest, as I have seen considerable service both in the National Guard and the Regular army, and, having the highest opinion of each in its own place, I may be said to be unpreju-

diced. While cordial relations should and do exist between the National Guard and the Regular army, and while there should be uni-formity of drill and equipment and frequent contact, yet in point of internal economy and personnel, nothing could be more unlike than the two services: and the assumption that the National Guard is the first reserve for the Regular army is an absurdity, to say the least. A reserve is something that can be drawn from, and what can the Regular army draw from the National Guard in point of

enlisted personnel?
No pains should be be spared in making the National Guard an efficient and homoselves and by themselves and not as a reserve to the Regular army. One of the arguments against the proposed regular reserve on the part of National Guardsmen is that ex-Regulars who might otherwise join them would be diverted into the reserve. But in answer to this it is only necessary to ask how many of the 100,000 ex-Regulars of military age and condition, living in various parts of the country, belong to the National Guard? I do not be-lieve that 1 per cent. do, judging from observation and inquiry among National Guard organizations I have visited. I know of one town supporting a good company of National Guard in which there is not a single ex-Regular, although the chapter of the Army and Navy Union in the same town comprises nearly

fifty ex-Regular soldiers.

The question now is: How can the Regular army be instantly put upon a war footing? The present law provides for the doubling of the enlisted force in time of danger, and this. of necessity, under existing laws, must be by ordinary recruiting, resulting in the sudden dumping into a compact, drilled and rigidly disciplined force of a lot of recruits equal in number to the original force, to the compact of the whole structure. plete demoralization of the whole structure for months to come. A regular company of sixty-five men could absorb perhaps ten recruits without a jar, but to bring it up to the war strength of 128 would require sixty-three war strength of 128 would require sixy-three new men; and inasmuch as the additional non-commissioned officers required for the larger company would be appointed from the old privates, making a total deduction of twenty-five for non-commissioned officers, cooks, artificers and musicians, it would leave but forty trained privates to sixty-three untrained ones. Nothing is more distasteful to the trained private than service in a company where the majority of the other privates are green men. The whole internal condition of the company is changed, the recruits with all the outside notions of the recruit which have got to be eliminated before he is

with all the outside notions of the recruit which have got to be eliminated before he is a soldier, are in the majority, and give a recruit tone to the whole affair. Although a complete set of trained non-commissioned officers is a great advantage, it is not everything, as the character of an army is the character of the privates. The humble private is the one that counts.

If on a week's notice we could put into the field 100,000 fully trained Regulars and 150,000 efficient National Guardsmen, we have a first line not to be despised. But if we start operations by demoralizing both branches by tadical transformations, just at the critical time, that is another story. If the increase to war footing could take place by filling up the Regular companies with former soldlers, expansion would create no shock whatever, as a trained Rgular soldler, no matter if he has been out of active service for a number of years, drops into his place without a jar, and the army would be at once complete, compact and ready for instant service, instead of being disrupted at the critical period when it should be at its best. The necessary increase to the National Guard could be obtained from their own reserve in a great measure.

Admitting the necessity for the reserve,

tained from their own reserve in a great measure.

Admitting the necessity for the reserve, the next question is how to raise and maintain it. Assuming that 150,000 able bodied men annually leave the Regular army for civil life after honorable discharge, their careful and expensive training is practically lost to the Government, as they are completely swallowed up in the general population; a waste of valuable material that would be considered wicked in any other country on earth. It is very well to say that these men are in the country and will be useful in future emergencies. But where are they? It is only incidentally that they are found. There is no way of keeping in touch with them, and they have become absorbed by other

To the Editor of the Sun—Sir: The article from the Editor Transcript printed in your issue of February 21, entitled "Stage Irishmen." Is remarkably true of the Irishmen on the stage in our New York theatres. Seldom you find a man of any other nationality, or woman either, who can "create" such objects of ridicule or contempt as the Irish actors.

What is more remarkable is that Irish of both poor and prosperous classes patronize theatres where these actors impersonate the exceptions and worst specimens of their race. The Frenchman or German will not take his wife or daughter to a theatre where a character will be presented on the stage which is an insuit to his nationality.

An English characteristic is egotism or blustering frankness: a Latin character must appear on the verge of nervous prostration. A German arouses our mirth by his errors in expressing himself in English. None of these awakes our disgust or contempt for his nationality, but they recall to memory the pittful depravity of impersonations by certain notable Irish character actors.

One cannot help thinking it is abous time for the Irish to call a halt; and what is more to cease supporting actors or theatre managers who knownely or otherwise create a stage Irishmen or Irishwoman as a being of the lowest grade in the social strata.

New York, Feb. 24. Kenneth Kingelet.

From the Indianapoits News.

In the face of a decrease in the number of marriages in the State in the year 1006 there was an increase in the number of divorces, according to the compilation of the County Clerk's received by the could be easier to get good recruits. Thousands of desirable young men would be miscelled by the life almost any young man would be large almost any young man would be large almost any young man would be large and not help the first vertices who now help any young man would be large and properly and would be sailer to bind themselves or so long a period as three years, not knowing how they would be suited with the life Almost any young man yould be called th enter the service who now hesitate to bind themselves for so long a period as three years, not knowing how they would be suited with the life. Almost any young man would be willing to take a year's trial at soldiering, particularly if it was the only way he could obtain entry to the reserve, if the attractions of the latter were such as to make it worth while.

particularly if it was the only way he could obtain entry to the reserve, if the attractions of the latter were such as to make it worth while.

It costs probably \$500 a year to maintain an individual soldier with the colors, and it should certainly be worth that much to maintain seven or eight trained reservists. If at the end of the first year of enlistment or subsequently at the termination of an enlistment, a soldier could join the reserves for a fixed period at say one-third of the pay he was receiving at discharge, a majority of those who were permanently quitting the service would undoubtedly do so, as \$5 a month would be worth while, whereas the proposed compensation would hardly prove sufficient inducement. These men could be mustered for pay every month—if living in towns assembling at some set place: if living in the country districts say before the postmaster—and could readily be kept track of by means of their pay vouchers, as easily as retired Regulars now are.

An advantage not to be lost sight of in this connection would be the indirect but immediate benefit to the Regular army, the year's probationary service bringing into the army a class of young men not now obtainable; and the members of the reserve scattered all over the country yet belonging to and immediately interested in the army would have the effect of more general interest on the part of the public. Besides the pay it would be a distinction to belong to the reserve, and with anything like a reasonable rate of pay there would be no difficulty in keeping it up.

Supposing it should cost an average of \$55 a year for each reservet, and we can retain in available shape a trained reserve force of \$0,000 on the pay at the pay it would be about as good an investment as Uncle Sam could make, to be repaid many times over in our next war.

Andrew.

Fort Totten, Feb. 23.

Rewards of the Brush.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I wish to ask your hearty cooperation in protesting against the Pullman service nuisance. As you know, of course, the porter who brushes person in a Pullman car is interested strictly in

the tip which he receives and nothing eise. He will take a person who has not been brushed for a term of years into the most beautiful car in servi and brush him vigorously until the coin has been ropped.

When the coin drops the work is done. If you would take this matter up carefully think that influence could be brought in such a

ray as to have the nuisance entirely abated.
PAWTUCKET, R. I., Feb. 23. J. D. SAWYER. Irreverence to an Explorer. Good Hudson, Fame misspells thy name, An outrage truly rank;

To obviate I nen

The compromise of "Hank."

by Its Own Suicidal Obstinacy. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir. The dispute between the Magyars and the King of Hungary is now at its most critical stage, and though there may be resistance and rioting the Magyars will find very little sympathy among the other nationalities of the kingdom. It has been quite apparent for some little time that the Rumanians of Transylvania and the Banat, who have been the special objects of Magyar persecution, were receiving direct encouragement from Vietne, for they have repelled the overtures which the different sections of the ultra Nationalist Magyars began making to them at the eleventh

THE FATUOUS MAGYARS.

Domination of the Race Likely to Be Ender

hour.

The Kossuth party even went so far as to
The Rumanian language, establish a paper in the Rumanian language, after having left nothing undone to crush it out, in order to persuade the Rumanians of the good intentions of their whilom persecutors and to gain them over to their side; but they wrote only for blind eyes. Neither the Rumanians nor the other nationalities of Hungary were moved by the appeals made to them as Hungarians, by those who had hitherto arrogated to themselves alone all

hitherto arrogated to themselves alone all the advantages and privileges of Hungarian citizenship, treating the majority as political parlahs without rights of any kind, but compelled to pay taxes and serve in the army for the defence of the privileges of the minority. The fatuity of the Magyars has been incomprehensible. Even a man like Count Apponyl, cultured and with a knowledge of the world, was unable to discern the changes that were going on all over Europe, and to recognize the necessity for according equal rights to all Hungarians without distinction of race.

recognize the necessity for according equal rights to all Hungarians without distinction of race.

When a year ago the Rumanians, Slovaks and Servians of Hungary succeeded in the face of every obstacle opposed to them by the dominating Magyars in electing ten Deputies to the Parliament at Budapest, who formed themselves into an independent group, Count Apponyl's indignation at their audacity knew no bounds, while Count Tisza benevolently recommended them to attach themselves to one of the parties into which the overwhelming Magyar majority was divided. They refused to recognize the political organization called the Club of the Nationalities at first, but when they saw that the King was preparing the way for the exercise of force in dealing with his recalcitrant Magyar subjects they invited the president of the club to take part in a meeting held for the purpose of giving pecuniary aid to the families of reservists who were compulsorily drafted into the ranks of regiments left mere skeletons through the refusal of the Magyars to yote the annual levy of recruits.

M. T. Mikali, a Rumanian Deputy and president of the club, refused, as did also Count Podmaniczky, the president of the Liberal party, and the Magyars found themselves left alone to face the inevitable, now upon them. The King-Emperor, acting in the general interests of Austria and the disenfranchised majority in Hungary, has given the Magyars every opportunity to abandon who knows anything of Hungarian politics must acknowledge are unjustifiable and incompatible with the prosperity and progress of the country; and they have with amazing foolishness refused to take advantage of the offer.

In view of the possibilities that lie in the Austra-Gervian denute the setting of the Austra-Gervian denute the setting of the

foolishness refused to take advantage of the offer.

In view of the possibilities that lie in the Austro-Rervian dispute, the action of the Magyars in forcing their sovereign to adopt an absolutist course is suicidal, for whatever the future may have in store for the peoples of Hungary it is as certain as anything can be that the days of the Magyar domination are ended, and that by the act of the Magyars themselves. NEW YORK, Feb. 22.

There are several articles of particular interest to American connoisseurs and collectors in the Feb-ruary number of the Burlington Magasine (Robert Grier Cooke). For some reason the first, or "Three New Pictures for the Metropolitan Museum." by C. J. Holmes, does not come in the department of "Art in America." edited by Mr. Frank J. Mather, Jr., wherein "Three Greek Mirrors in the Museum of Fine Arts. Boston," are authoritatively described by B. H. Hill, and Charles Fitzgerald contributes an account of "A Project for the Advancement of Architecture."

In the article on the three Metropolitan acquisi-tions, "Ariadne," by G. F. Watts; "Study in Olis." by William Etty, and the "Virgin of Salamanca," by the Mattre de Flemalle, all beautifully illustrated by the Mattre de Flemaile, all beautifully illustrated by collotype reproductions, Prof. Holmes characterizes the "Ariadne" as the epitome of Watta's work in some respects, and adds that it would be hard to find any other picture of his which illustrates more admirably and more fairly the nobility and splendor of this great master. Of the brilliant

Carpets" appears a concluding illustrated article the series. Another continued series is on "Eng ish Miniature Painters," by Sir Richard R. Holmes. beautifully illustrated, as likewise is Claude Phil lips's "Dramatic Portraiture," the opening article

Overlapping Charities.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your cri clam that charities overlap each other, while true and missions, which vie with each other for souls on whom to bestow their spiritual bounty, and under whose direction the overlapping charities Surely you will concede are largely carried on. that the personal benefit accruing from the giving of one's goods or oneself to the unfortunate might balance any waste of money from an economic standpoint?

You include public schools under charities. This surely is an error, as education and civilization ar interdenendent, and to neglect one is to endange the other. Leaving aside the question of administration of schools, it is the State's duty to protect itself by preventive and curative measures. Were

would suggest that as long as employers continu to disregard the health and happiness of their em-ployees by giving insufficient pay and allowing insanitary and debasing conditions for work, so ong will cases multiply for charity and for social NEW YORK, Feb. 20.

Neglecting Washington.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Do a large number of the most important office buildings of lower Broadway stand on foreign soil, are they owned by allens, or has the memory of the Father of his Country so faded from the minds of many of his fellow countrymen that it no longer occurs to them to offer the slight tribute of respect which formerly found expression in the raising of the

national emblem upon his birthday? How otherwise can one account for the fact that upon such conspicuous and prominent buildings as the Empire, at Rector street; the Astor Court, at Exchange place; the immense building at 42 Broad way, the Standard Oil the Bowling Green, the Washington (Field), at the end of Broadway, and many others no flag was displayed on February Is commercialism gradually obliterating all patri-NEW YORK, Feb. 23.

Tolstoi and the Bishop in Hell

From the Westminster Garette. The church of Tasowo, in the province of Kursk in Russia, possesses an extraordinary painting, for which the inhabitants are said to have paid £25 and of which they are exceedingly proud. The picture represents hell, and the most notable figure is that of Count Tolstol, in peasant dress, sitting in a huge boiler placed over a blazing fire, which gleeful demons are stoking. Some of Toistol's friends made remonstrance to the Bishop, who ordered the figure representing Toistol to be painted out. The Bishop sent his vicar-general to examine the picture, but the curious thing is that he did not discover that both he himself and the Bishop are among the figures in torment. After medieval precedent, it seems the parish priest instructed the painter to give a hot place to everybody against whom he had a score to pay off.

His Rules for Long Life. From the Baltimore Sun. David Hull will celebrate his ninety-second birth-

The secret of his long life and excellent health. he says, is his regularity and moderation things. To live long he set down the following

"Be moderate in all things, including spirits and tobacco; eat plenty of apples, go to bed early and be up with the birds and live in the open air as much as possible."

Disqualified.

Knicker-Has Jones investigated anything? Booker-No, indeed; he is a detective.

Necessities. Enicker-Is an automobile a necessity of life?

Booker-No. of death.